

But on page 13 of that narrative, here's what we did on developmental disability aid. In the 1995 session, the Governor vetoed \$3,302,456 for FY '95-96 and \$6,062,185 in '96-97 relating to the provider pay equity at 75 percent and 80 percent respectively. These amounts provide funding for both current services and expanded services under the blueprint. The Legislature subsequently overrode the Fiscal Year '95-96 veto only. The committee recommendation for the mid-biennium adjustments has two components. First, the '95-96 appropriation is reduced by \$1,827,000 which was the portion related to the blueprint; and because of the delayed start-up, these funds would not be used. Second, the committee recommendation provides \$6,430,589 increase in '96-97 which would continue the phase-in of rate equity to 80 percent for both current services and expanded services under the blueprint, assuming full implementation of the blueprint on January 1, 1997. What the Governor did is he vetoed half of that amount, \$3,170,295. Two of the things that I passed out to you earlier is a letter from Region IV, from Craig Tiedtke. I think he explains what the providers are, especially the ones in the rural areas are up against in trying to hire people to do this work. The other thing I handed out was the provider rate tax...provider's rate equity sheet which shows you the methodology that we have been working with. Ever since I've been in this Legislature, we have been trying to figure out some way to serve what we call the waiting list in each region across the state. The problem with the waiting list, we've been getting to the point where we're going to be able to reduce that waiting list and perhaps accommodate most of them. This will set that program way back because the providers won't be able to hire enough people at this rate to work with the people that are on the waiting list. They can make more money at other places. The other thing, even dedicated people, even dedicated people who work with the mentally retarded and the disabled and the physically challenged and so on burn out after several years so you have to keep...you have to have something there to be able to hire enough people to...you have to have people to provide the services for those who receive the services. One of my big problems with numbers is that I always see people behind them. I see people's faces. I see those people that need the services and I see those people who provide them. And in this particular instance, I think we were making such progress and that's why this veto does concern me greatly. I worried about it all weekend and every place I went I would meet parents who say, oh, I hope we can hang on to